

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

The following message was received from his excellency, the Governor:

Executive Office, April 7, 1897.

To the House of Representatives:

House concurrent resolution No. 18 is herewith returned without approval. It provides that the Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds shall set apart one of the rooms of the Department of Insurance, Statistics and History in the Capitol for the display of all relics of the Republic of Texas that may be committed to the custody of the State; that the Commissioner of Insurance, Statistics and History shall exercise general supervision thereof; that the Society of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas shall be the special guardians of the relics, with authority to designate some particular chapter of the society as the especial custodians, empowered to use their judgment in the arrangement and management of said exhibit; that the expense of vacating the room shall be paid out of any unexpended appropriation for the Department of Insurance, Statistics and History, and that the expense of providing the necessary tables and cases for displaying the relics shall be paid out of any unexpended appropriation for Public Buildings and Grounds. The Society of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas is a private corporation, composed of the female descendants of the founders and soldiers of the Texan Republic, organized for the patriotic purpose of collecting and preserving memorials of our early history, and this resolution in effect gives them authority and control over one of the rooms of the Capitol and its contents, reserving only general supervision in the Commissioner and practically authorizes them to expend public funds charged by law to the Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds. In my judgment, the resolution should not be adopted, because it is not allowable to amend or repeal a statute by resolution (San Antonio v. Micklejohn, 33 S. W. Rep., 735), and it is inexpedient and unnecessary. By art. 3826, Revised Statutes, the Commissioner of Insurance, Statistics and History is given charge and control of the rooms occupied by that department. The resolution, while repealing the statute pro tanto, would create confusion by dividing authority in the department, and pre-

sent the anomalous condition of private parties in charge of public offices and directing the disbursement of moneys for which officials are under bond. The resolution, moreover, is believed to be unnecessary. By section 12, article 2916, Revised Statutes, the Commissioner of Insurance, Statistics and History is expressly required to "preserve all historical relics, mementoes, antiquities and works of art connected with and relating to the history of Texas which may in any way come into his possession as such commissioner." The work in which these noble women are engaged commends itself to all, and they may be assured that without further directory legislation any memorials which they may commit to the State through the Commissioner will be appropriately arranged and faithfully preserved.

C. A. CULBERSON.